

to end up with people that aren't going to be able to keep up, and we're giving our advantage to the rest of the world instead of keeping them here. With that, I will relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Beutler, you have approximately four minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, thank you very much.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And, Senator Beutler, yours is the next light, so I'll just let you go on, if that's what you prefer.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you. I'm not sure I can or should take all of that time. But I appreciate the senators comments with respect to the importance of education, whether you're in the business community, or almost any aspect of our society, as they talk of competitiveness in the world, as they speak of why people are losing jobs and not able to find other jobs, it all comes back around to education and the need for more sophisticated people, more better educated people. If there was ever a time in our history as we go into a global free market where we're competing with societies all around the world, if there was ever a time in our history when we have to be careful that education is getting better and that it does not get worse, it's at this particular point in time in our history, because we can lose jobs and industries to other societies who better prepare their people for the high tech world, for a world that continues to become more high tech and more high tech all along. So the word of caution, but beyond that let me say again that this amendment wouldn't do away with the need for restructuring. This amendment doesn't suggest the replacement of all the revenues, it suggests the replacement of 150 million of what's going to be 200 to \$250 million of shortfall. So the pressure will be there, there will be plenty of pressure, even if we relieve the situation to this extent. If we don't relieve the situation to this extent, there won't be voluntary mergers, we will have to have mandatory restructuring of the schools and the school systems because it's going to have to happen quickly, and they won't move to do it that quickly, they won't be able to comprehend the situation that quickly, and the deterioration will be very quick unless we have some safety net of basic revenues there to help them make this transition. Let me